

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S:DSPIEGEL:BL
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
S/S: MR. TARNOFF
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 083198

NODIS
CHEROKEE; FOR AMBASSADOR TOON ONLY FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PARM

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN

1. I PLAN TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO DOBRYNIN FRIDAY MORNING AT 9:45. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS MATTER, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY.
2. BEGIN TEXT: WE BELIEVE THAT ORGANIZATION OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUPS ON ARMS CONTROL MATTERS THAT WERE AGREED TO DURING THE MOSCOW MEETINGS SHOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT. A PROMPT COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK OF THESE GROUPS WOULD IMPART A MEASURE OF CONTINUITY TO RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ARMS CONTROL AREA.
3. SPECIFICALLY, WE FEEL THAT BOTH SIDES COULD BE READY TO

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BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WITHIN A MONTH. WE REQUEST THAT YOU ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY. DISCUSSIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN ARE SCHEDULED WITHIN THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT APRIL 18TH. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO COMMENCE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE US-USSR WORKING GROUPS ON APRIL 25TH IN GENEVA IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. REPRESENTA-

TIVES FROM THE US AND THE USSR COULD REMAIN FOR AN ADDITIONAL WEEK OR MORE FOR THESE BILATERAL TALKS, IN WHICH

THEY COULD BE JOINED BY OTHERS, AS REQUIRED, INCLUDING SPECIALISTS.

4. IT IS ALSO OUR THINKING THAT ANOTHER WORKING GROUP COULD BE FORMED TO DEAL WITH THREE OF THE OTHER TOPICS AGREED TO IN MOSCOW, THE PRE-NOTIFICATION OF MISSILE LAUNCHES, CIVIL DEFENSE, AND ANTI-SATELLITE MATTERS. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THESE TOPICS MIGHT BE TAKEN UP SEQUENTIALLY. IN OUR VIEW, THE DISCUSSIONS OF PRE-NOTIFICATION OF MISSILE LAUNCHES COULD BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. DISCUSSIONS OF CIVIL DEFENSE WOULD REQUIRE, ON OUR SIDE, SOMEWHAT GREATER PREPARATION, BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS ACTIVITY COULD GO FORWARD SOON AFTER INITIAL EXCHANGES ON THE PRE-NOTIFICATION TOPIC. IT IS PROBABLE THAT DEVELOPING OUR POSITION ON THE THIRD TOPIC -- ANTI-SATELLITE MATTERS-- WILL TAKE SOMEWHAT LONGER. WE WOULD AIM, HOWEVER, FOR TALKS ON THIS QUESTION TO FOLLOW THESE CIVIL DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING YOUR GOVERNMENT WHETHER THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE OUTLINED FOR DEALING WITH THESE THREE ARMS CONTROL TOPICS IS ACCEPTABLE. IF SO, WE WOULD PROPOSE TAKING UP THE FIRST ACTIVITY OF THIS WORKING GROUP--TALKS ON PRE-NOTIFICATION OF MISSILE LAUNCHES--ON MAY 9TH. INASMUCH AS MR. WARNKE PLANS TO CHAIR BOTH OF THESE US WORKING GROUPS, WE WOULD FURTHER
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PROPOSE THAT THIS SECOND GROUP ALSO BE CONVENED IN GENEVA. SOME SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS MIGHT, IF YOU DESIRE, BE HELD IN MOSCOW AND SOME, AT OUR REQUEST, IN WASHINGTON.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER TOPICS AGREED UPON IN MOSCOW, OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO DEFER ORGANIZING THE WORKING GROUPS AT LEAST UNTIL THE FIRST TWO WORKING GROUPS SUGGESTED ABOVE HAVE BEGUN THEIR ACTIVITIES. OUR STUDIES OF SOME OF THESE OTHER COMPLEX SUBJECTS ARE IN THEIR EARLY STAGES, AND ADEQUATE PREPARATION OF OUR POSITION WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TIME. IT IS OUR INTENTION, HOWEVER, TO INTENSIFY THESE PREPARATORY EFFORTS.

7. IT IS ALSO OUR CONSIDERED VIEW THAT PROGRESS IN THE SALT PROCESS WOULD BE SPEEDED BY AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SALT DELEGATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, WE REQUEST THAT YOU SEEK YOUR GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF A MEETING OF THE FULL DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA ON OR ABOUT MAY 2ND. THIS WILL PERMIT CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE

SO-CALLED SECONDARY ISSUES THAT ALREADY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
BUT NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED. WE, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE THAT
THE SUGGESTED DATE IS LESS THAN THREE WEEKS FROM NOW. OUR

FEELING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE ISSUES ALREADY BEFORE THE
DELEGATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF ADDITIONAL PRE-
PARATION. WITH REGARD TO NEW ISSUES, THE DISCUSSIONS
WOULD BE EXPLORATORY AND EXPLANATORY IN NATURE. THE
PROMPT MEETING OF THE DELEGATIONS, MOREOVER, COULD
SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR THE MEETING IN MAY
BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND SECRETARY OF STATE
VANCE.

8. IF YOUR GOVERNMENT GENERALLY CONCURS WITH THE
PROCEDURES OUTLINED ABOVE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE MEET
WITH YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS PRECISE ARRANGE-
MENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MEETINGS. IF YOUR
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GOVERNMENT SHOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PRIOR CONSULTATION
ON ANY OF THESE MATTERS, ONE OR MORE OF OUR COLLEAGUES
COULD GO TO MOSCOW FOR THAT PURPOSE.

9. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO THESE PROPOSALS.
(SIGNED) CYRUS VANCE (AND) PAUL C. WARNKE END TEXT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), CAT-B, CHEROKEE 04/13/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE083198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DSPIEGEL:BL
Enclosure: FOR AMBASSADOR TOON ONLY FROM THE SECRETARY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840076-1067, N770002-0581
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770460/aaaacagl.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f74bb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2817669
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US, (DOBRYNIN, ANATOLIY F)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f74bb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009